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FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 2026 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRASILIA
LOURENCO MARQUES LUANDA LUSAKA MADRID OPORTO PONTA DELGADA
CINCLANT USCINCEUR DIA COMUSFORAZ NATO 21 MAY

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PO

SUBJ: LAWYERS CALL FOR REFORMS

SUMMARY: NATIONAL LAWYERS MEETING HAS CALLED FOR SWEEPING
REFORM OF LEGAL SYSTEM AND PUNISHMENT OF OLD REGIME
OFFICIALS GUILTY OF CRIMES. EXTREME AND VINDICTIVE
RESOLUTIONS FAILED. LAWYERS REPORTEDLY DELIGHTED WITH
SELECTION OF NEW JUSTIC MINISTER. LAWYERS COMMISSION
MET MAY 18 TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF "WHITE PAPER" ON
SINS OF FORMER REGIME. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN INTENSE BUT GENERALLY ORDERLY ALL-DAY MEETING MAY 11, ABOUT 1,000 OF PORTUGAL'S 3,500 LAWYERS HELD PLENARY ASSEMBLY UNDER AUSPICES OF BAR ASSOCIATION. BAR PRESIDENT HAD CALLED PLENARY DAY AFTER COUP, THUS FRUSTRATING EFFORTS BY HANDFUL OF MILITANT LEFTISTS TO GRAB POWER AT SMALLER MEETING EARLIER. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AT NATIONAL MEETING WAS ANNOUNCEMENT BY BAR PRESIDENT THAT HE AND OTHER OFFICIALS WOULD SUBMIT RESIGNATIONS SINCE THEY HAD NOT BEEN DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED. AS INCUMBENTS HAD APPARENTLY HOPED, MEETING AGREED BY ACCALAMATION THAT RESIGNATIONS SHOULD BE REFUSED AND THAT OFFICERS SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THEY COULD ARRANGE NEW ELECTIONS.

2. BAR PRESIDENT THEN PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF 19-POINT RESOLUTION ON PROFESSIONAL, JUDICIAL, AND POLITICAL MATTERS WHICH WAS SHORTENED AND MADE SOMEWHAT MORE STRIDENT IN SUBSEQUENT DEBATE. DECLARATION, APPROVED BY NEARLY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, PLEDGES SUPPORT TO ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND PRAISES ABOLITION OF SECURITY POLICE, POLITICAL COURTS, AND CENSORSHIP. DOCUMENT CALLS FOR LEGALIZATION OF DIVORCE, RATIFICATION OF VARIOUS ILO CONVENTIONS, AND PUNISHMENT OF THOSE GUILTY OF CRIMES AND ABUSES IF FOUND GUILTY AT "FAIR TRIALS." DOCUMENT ALSO CALLS UPON BAR ASSOCIATION TO PUBLISH WHITE PAPER ON POLICE BRUTALITY UNDER OLD REGIME. RESOLUTION CALLS FOR FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF RIGHT TO STRIKE.

3. FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF DOCUMENT MENTIONED PARA 2, LAWYERS APPROVED SECOND RESOLUTION CONTAINING 25 PROPOSALS TO BE HANDED TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THESE ARE MORE SPECIFIC AND STRINGENT THAN FIRST RESOLUTION PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH, IN PART DUE TO EFFORTS OF BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, PROPOSALS RESPECT NEED FOR IMPARTIAL JUDICIAL HANDLING OF CASES BROUGHT AGAINST FORMER OFFICIALS. BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SUCCEEDED IN REMOVING SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS AGAINST NAMED INDIVIDUALS FROM LAWYERS' PROPOSALS AND MANAGED TO KEEP VERY HIGH PITCHED MEETING FROM SLIPPING INTO CHAOS. AT ONE POINT HE REPRIMANDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A LAWYER WHO CALLED ANOTHER A FASCIST. BAR PRESIDENT TOLD EMBOFF HOTTEST MOMENT CAME WHEN LAWYER KNOWN FOR ULTRA CONSERVATIVE VIEWS PROPOSED INDICTMENT OF ALL FORMER GOVERNORS OF OVERSEAS PROVINCES (A PROVOCATIVE NON-STARTER, SINCE SPINOLA IS ONE SUCH PERSON).

4. BAR PRESIDENT SAYS LAWYERS GENERALLY DELIGHTED WITH SELECTION OF SALGADO ZENHA AS JUSTICE MINISTER (HE WAS

ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF BAR ASSOCIATION AT TIME OF COUP).
CONSERVATIVES ARE CONFIDENT OF HIS COMMITMENT TO LEGAL
PROCESSES AND HIS IMPARTIALITY, WHILE LEFT BELIEVES HE
WILL WORK WITH VIGOR TO PUNISH THE GUILTY.

5. SPECIAL COMMISSION OF BAR ASSOCIATION MET MAY 18 TO
SET UP PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATIONS LEADING TO
PUBLICATION OF WHITE PAPER ON ABUSES OF POLICE AUTHORITY
UNDER OLD REGIME.

6. COMMENT: WE EXPECT BAR ASSOCIATION WILL PLAY MAJOR
ROLE IN HANDLING COMPLAINTS AGAINST FORMER OFFICIALS; THUS
FAR IT APPEARS THAT BAR IS INCLINED TO ACT RESPONSIBLY. SCOTT
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